

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 30, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on December 1, 2005, during which the cited references were discussed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Publication No. WO 97/31775 to Giertz et al. (hereinafter "Giertz"). Claims 2, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giertz. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giertz in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,413,834 to Hunter et al. (hereinafter "Hunter"). Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giertz in view of the Admitted Prior Art (APA). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giertz and the APA in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,648,358 to Cannady et al. (hereinafter "Cannady").

Claims 1-12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,638,387.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. None of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest all of the features of the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 2. Claims 4-12 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1, and claim 3 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence on claim 2.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

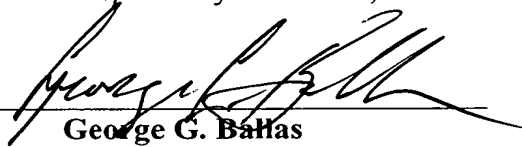
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

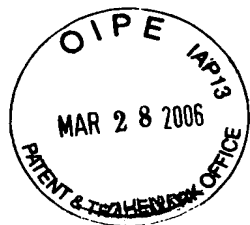
Dated: March 28, 2006

By



George G. Ballas
Registration No. 52,587
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant

Attachment



ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

1/3

FIG. 1
Related Art

